

Busy senior is 90 years Young

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

Merle Young won't let turning 90 years old slow her down.

The energetic Millside Drive woman, who celebrates her birthday Monday, will remain active in her church and seniors' club, and won't give up her favourite hobby, knitting.

But that also means she'll continue to be hard to get hold of, according to her daughter, who lives in Arizona.

"You have to make an appointment the night before," says Carol Woznicki, who came to visit her mother for the summer. "I can't even get her on the phone."

Born in Quebec, Mrs. Young and her late husband Benjamin, who was a veterinarian, moved to Nassagaweya in 1924. Mr. Young passed away in 1980, but his wife continued to live in their Guelph Line home until 1987.

"I found it hard when I came here," she recalls. "I was used to water." Mrs. Young was raised on her family's lakefront dairy farm with six siblings.

An honorary member of the Nassagaweya Women's Institute, Mrs. Young recalls the general store operated by the Easley family on Guelph Line, where farmers would exchange their grain for groceries.

She also remembers a shed located north of the store where residents kept their horses while attending functions at the hall, which is now the Nassagaweya Community Centre.

The arrival of Mohawk Raceway was a major controversy in Nassagaweya Township, she says. Many residents were opposed to the idea, while others, like Mrs. Young, saw it as a way to boost the local economy.

"It brought business into the township and helped the community," she recalls. "I used to like to go."

But today, she doesn't like the fact that more and more farms are disap-

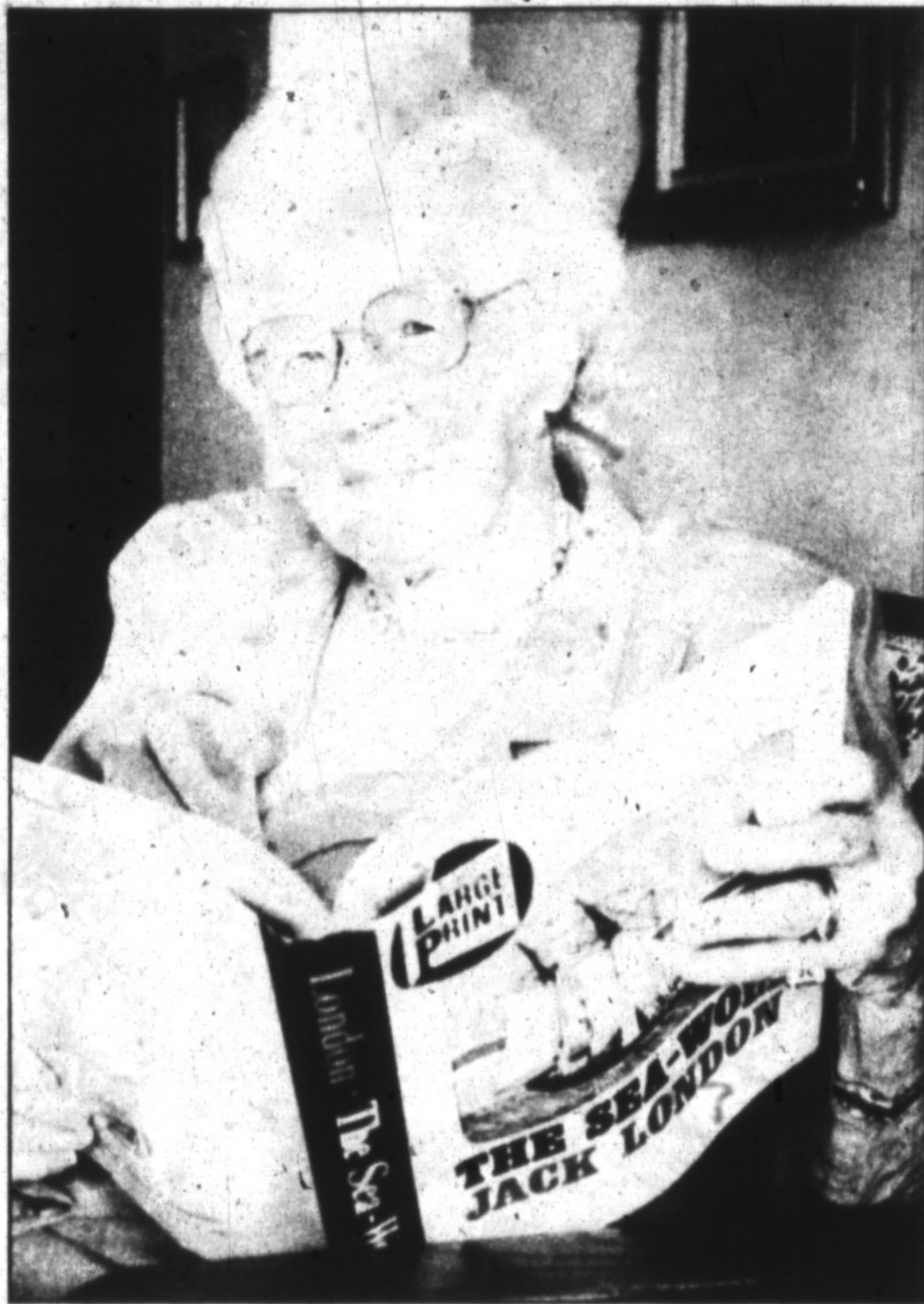


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Merle Young of Millside Drive turns 90 years old Monday. She will celebrate her birthday with family and friends at the Nassagaweya Community Centre, not far from her longtime home, Sunday.

pearing in the area, and she doesn't approve of the rapid growth.

"Things are going too fast," she said. "It's hard to keep up."

Many students in the Nassagaweya area are familiar with Mrs. Young, who volunteered at Brookville School in the 1980s. She read to the children and told them stories about "the old days."

Mrs. Young, who also has a son,

Clifford of Burlington, doesn't know what to credit for her healthy, long life. She never smoked much, nor was she a heavy drinker.

"I tried smoking but I didn't like it," she says. "I could take a drink and I could leave it alone."

Family and friends will join Mrs. Young in celebrating her 90th birthday at the Nassagaweya Community Centre Sunday.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 5-8 Fire Prevention Week (Milton Fire Department)
- 8-10 Optimist Club
- 9-10 Triple "A" Hockey Registration
- 10 Senior Citizens "Club 88"
- 12 Thanksgiving - Mall Closed
- 15-17 Daughters of Knox (Acton Presbyterian Church)
- Andrews' Scenic Acres
- 17 Kidney Foundation
- Milton Horticultural Society
- Sunburst Beauty Pageant
- 22 Optimist Club
- 24 Halton Centennial Manor
- 28-31 Fall Craft Show
- 31 Happy Halloween

UPCOMING EVENTS



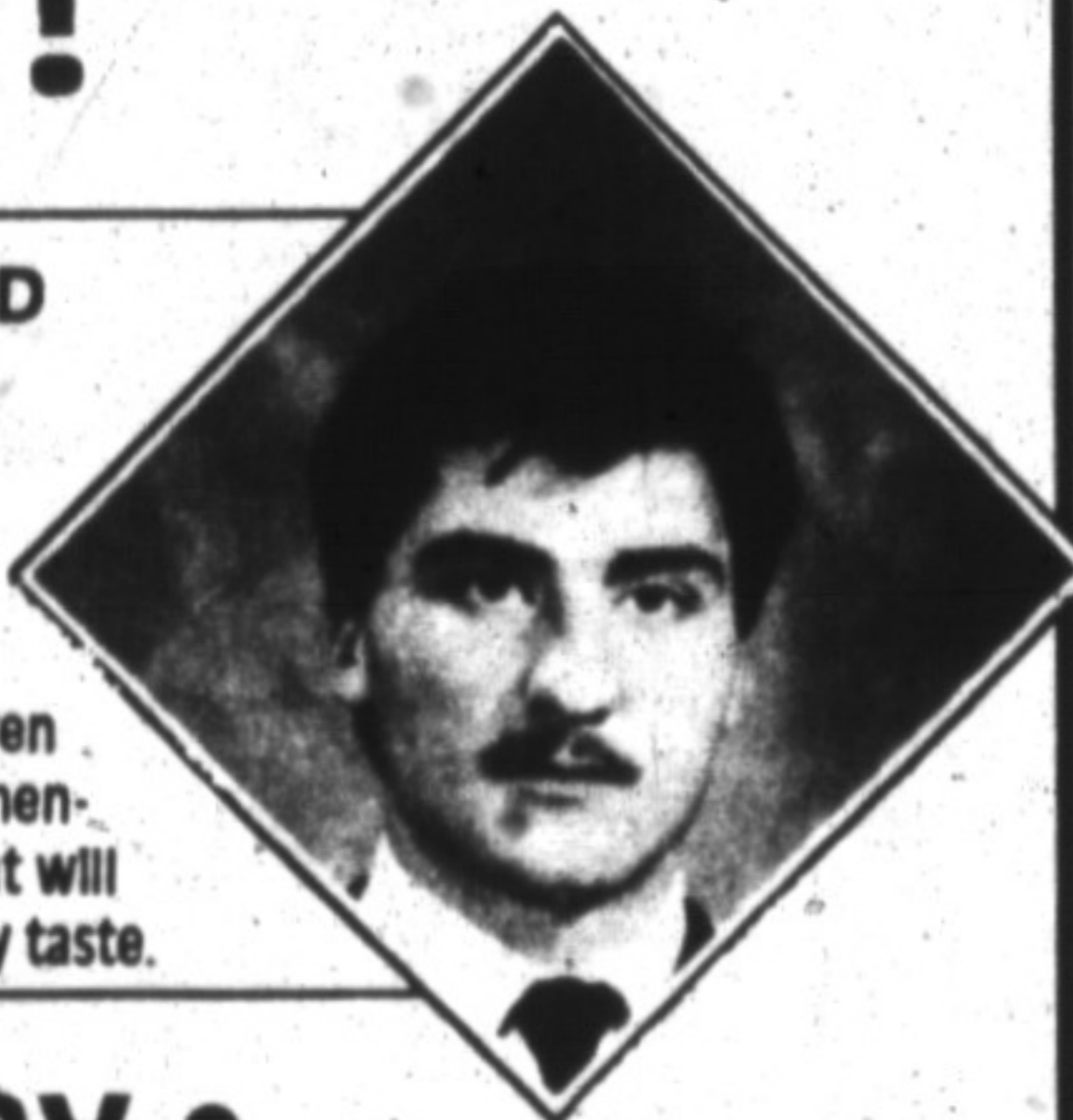
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